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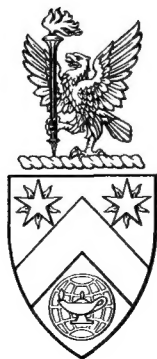
FROM EASTERN TO WESTERN

ARABIC



D E P A R T M E N T O F S T A T E

" FROM EASTERN TO WESTERN
ARABIC, "



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✓
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\ D E P A R T M E N T O F S T A T E /

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From Eastern to Western Arabic is designed to provide help and guidance to persons who have learned Eastern Arabic and now have a need to use Western Arabic. The manual focuses on special features of Western Arabic pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and social usage. It helps the student recognize correspondences and directs attention to those sometimes deceptive correspondences which may lead to interference in the transfer from one dialect to another.

Planned and written by Dr. Margaret K. Omar, the manual has profited by suggestions from Dr. Harlie L. Smith of FSI and Dr. Ernest Abdel-Massih, University of Michigan, both of whom read the manuscript in draft. Mr. Ahmed Akahloun and Mr. Ahmed Jebrane served as resource persons providing examples of speech usage for Western Arabic. Mr. Naim J. Owais confirmed the Eastern Arabic usage. Camera copy of the manuscript was prepared by Maryko S. Deemer.



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INTRODUCTION

This book is intended for Americans who have a good command of an Eastern Arabic dialect, and who now wish to learn a dialect of Western Arabic. We will use the Levantine dialect as our "base" (with reference to other Eastern dialects when appropriate), and compare it with the Moroccan dialect.

While Moroccan, or North African, Arabic may appear at first to be virtually unintelligible to a speaker of Eastern Arabic, learning the correspondences at the sound level, as well as the basic grammatical changes and key words, leads rapidly to an ability to "get along" in it. You will find that speakers of Western Arabic have much less difficulty understanding you than you have understanding them; thus, your greatest problem will be in the comprehension of what you hear, and you can adapt your own speech more gradually. The features discussed will be those in the Moroccan dialect which are different, misleading, or confusing for a speaker of Eastern Arabic.

Two basic factors account for the great divergence of Eastern and Western Arabic:

(1) The indigenous languages underlying Western Arabic were Berber, as opposed to Semitic languages in the Levant. Many of the "strange" features found in Moroccan can be traced to the influence of the Berber languages.

(2) Differences are reinforced, and new changes introduced, when any "mother" language is spread over great geographical distance. The passage of more than one thousand years since this original diffusion has also contributed to the situation.

In general, however, the similarities far outweigh the differences, and you will soon adapt your "ear" to Western dialects. The farther east the

dialect, the closer it is to Eastern Arabic.

We hope that this book will save time in isolating and overcoming the problems you can expect to encounter.

* * *

I would like to express my appreciation to Messrs. Ahmed Akahloun and Ahmed Jebrane for their assistance as native-speaking informants in this project. I also thank Dr. Harlie Smith for his guidance and suggestions. I am especially grateful to Dr. Ernest Abdel-Massih for having read the entire draft manuscript and for his many helpful comments.

THE TRANSCRIPTION SYSTEM

The following special symbols have been used:

- § ʔ a dot under any consonant represents emphasis
- γ represents 'gh' or غ
- x represents 'kh' or خ
- 9 represents 'c' or ع ('ain')
- H represents 'h' or ح
- ž represents 'zh', 'j' or ج
- š represents 'sh' or ش

I
PRONUNCIATION

A. Vowels. The most obvious difference in the pronunciation of Moroccan Arabic is the absence of some unstressed vowels, which leads to frequent, complex consonant clusters. Note the pronunciation of the following words:

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| fhemt | 'I understood' |
| Hmed | 'Ahmad' |
| xtek | 'your sister' |
| ste9melt | 'I used' |

Sometimes a vowel appears in a later syllable in the word:

| | |
|-------|----------|
| šherɣ | 'month' |
| 9reb | 'Arabs' |
| lHem | 'meat' |
| kla | 'he ate' |
| rʒel | 'leg' |

The long vowels in Moroccan Arabic are /a/, /i/, and /u/ (equivalent to /aa/, /ii/ and /uu/ in Eastern Arabic).

| | |
|--------|---------|
| xemsin | 'fifty' |
| waHed | 'one' |
| šuf | 'look!' |

The long /ē/ of Eastern Arabic (Classical Arabic diphthong /ay/) becomes /i/ in Moroccan Arabic.

| | |
|------|-----------|
| mšit | 'I left' |
| bin | 'between' |

The short vowels are /e/ and /o/. The short /i/ and /a/ in Eastern Arabic become /e/ (which varies considerably in quality depending on the environment), and short /u/ in Eastern Arabic becomes /o/, except at the end of words.

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| bent | 'girl' |
| dxelt | 'I entered' |
| ʃoftu | 'I saw him' |

The semivowels /y/ and /w/ may be pronounced as with /i/ and /u/ in word-initial position, in free alternation:

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| yeddi, iddi | 'my hand' |
| yʒi, iʒi | 'he comes' |
| woʒda, uʒda | 'Oujda' (a Moroccan city) |

B. Consonants. Moroccan Arabic contains all the consonants found in Eastern Arabic, and some others as well. In addition to the emphatic /t̤/, /d̤/, /s̤/, and /z̤/, Moroccan Arabic has emphatic /l̤/, /r̤/, /b̤/, and /m̤/. /l̤/ and /r̤/ contrast with non-emphatic /l/ and /r/, while /b̤/ and /m̤/ are features of pronunciation depending on their environment, but do not contrast the meaning of words. These consonants occur in such words as:

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----|---------|---------------|
| lebsa | 'wearing (f.)' | vs. | l̤amba | 'lamp' |
| wellah | 'he appointed him' | vs. | w̤ellah | 'by God' |
| ʒra | 'he ran' | vs. | ʒ̤ra | 'it happened' |
| berra | 'he acquitted' | vs. | b̤erra | 'he cured' |
| bent | 'girl' | vs. | b̤ank | 'bank' |
| mali | 'my money' | vs. | m̤qaʃ | 'scissors' |

The consonants /k/, /g/, /q/, /x/, and /ʁ/ may be "rounded" (labialized) when they occur as the first member of an initial consonant cluster. In almost all cases, this pronunciation may alternate with non-labialized pronunciation and thus is of little functional importance in the language.

The consonant /q/ (qaf) has been retained, usually pronounced as in Classical Arabic. (Some areas pronounce it as /g/ or /ʁ/).

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| qlam | 'pencil' |
| qal | 'he said' |
| werqa | 'a piece of paper' |

The interdental consonants (the th's) of Classical Arabic (ث ذ ظ) have become /d/ and /t/ in Western Arabic, whereas in Eastern Arabic they normally become /s/ and /z/, especially in modern borrowings from Classical Arabic. You will note this correspondence in many words.

| <u>Classical Arabic</u> | <u>Levantine Arabic</u> | <u>Moroccan Arabic</u> | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| (مثلا) mathalan | masalan | matalan | 'for example' |
| (تمثال) timthaal | timsaal | timtal | 'statue' |
| (اذاعة) idaa9a | izaa9a | ida9a | 'broadcast' |
| (لذيذ) ladiid | laziiz | ldid | 'delicious' |
| (استاذ) ustaad | ustaaz | ustad | 'professor' |
| (مظاهرة) muḡaahara | muzaahara | moḡahera | 'demonstration' |
| (بالضبط) biḡ-ḡabt | biz-zabt | bed-debt | 'exactly' |

The realization of the consonant /t/ is farther front in Moroccan Arabic, resulting in a sound similar to [ts].

Voiceless consonants become voiced if they are followed by a voiced consonant in a cluster:

| | |
|-----|------------|
| dʒi | 'you come' |
|-----|------------|

The distinctions between /s/ and /š/, and /z/ and /ẓ/ are often lost in Moroccan Arabic and the sounds are assimilated, especially if another /ẓ/ follows later in the word.

| <u>Classical Arabic</u> | <u>Levantine Arabic</u> | <u>Moroccan Arabic</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| zujaaj | izaaz | zaẓ, ẓaẓ 'glass' |
| zawj | joz | zuẓ, ẓuẓ 'a pair' |
| sajana | sajjin | sẓen, šẓen 'to imprison' |
| sams | sams | sems, sems 'sun' |
| | | šerẓem, serẓem 'window' |

C. Stress. Stress is variable in Moroccan Arabic, and occurs on different syllables in a word, depending on their environment. A common tendency is for the stress to shift toward the end of a word or word group, i.e., for "sentence stress" to replace word stress.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| nkétbu | 'we write' |
| xessna nketbú l-bra | 'We have to write the letter.' |
| škun húwa | 'Who is he?' |
| huwá maši hna | 'He is not here.' |

II WORDS AND AFFIXES

A. Perfect Tense of Verbs. The perfect (past) tense of the verb differs from Eastern Arabic in the second person singular, 'you' form. Masculine and feminine singular are not differentiated as they are in Eastern Arabic; both end in the suffix "-ti".

fhemti 'Did you (m., f.) understand?'

fayn mšiti 'Where did you (m., f.) go?'

Nor is there a distinction when a pronoun suffix is attached:

šuftini 'You (m., f.) saw me.'

B. Imperfect Tense of Verbs. The imperfect (present) tense of the verb has a different form for the first person, 'I' and 'we'. The 'I' form has the prefix "n-" (like the 'we' form in Eastern Arabic), and the 'we' form is differentiated by using a prefix-suffix combination "n- -u" with the verb. Typical verbs in the first person are:

nekteb 'I write' nketbu 'we write'

nšuf 'I see' nšufu 'we see'

yemkenli nemši 'May I go?'

yemkenlna ntkellmu bel-engliza 'We can speak English.'

The masculine singular pronoun object, 'him, it' is marked in the 'we' form of verbs by adding the suffix "-h":

yemkenlna nšufu 'We can see.'

yemkenlna nšufuh 'We can see him.'

In Tangier and the northern coastal cities, no distinction is made in the second person singular verb, or in the singular imperative; both are used in the masculine form.

Thus, you may hear:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| teqder texrož | 'You (m., f.) can go out.' |
| xəşşək terža9 | 'You (m., f.) must return.' |
| šuf | 'Look!' (to a man or woman) |
| skot | 'Be quiet!' (to a man or woman) |

C. Verb Prefixes. Moroccan Arabic has three verb prefixes which differ from those in Eastern Arabic:

(1) The prefix which is approximately equivalent to "9am-" or "b-" in Eastern Arabic is "ka-":

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| koll nhar ka-terže9 fer-řeb9a | 'Every day she returns at four o'clock.' |
| huwa ka-yemši leđ-đar | 'He is going to the house (home).' |
| ka-yfhem | 'He understands.' |

The first sentence expresses habitual action. In the next two sentences, progressive and stative meanings of the verb are expressed with the prefix "ka-", in which cases the active participle would be more commonly used in Eastern Arabic.

(2) The future prefix (equivalent to raH- in Levantine Arabic) is "yadi-" (varies with "yad-" or "ya-").

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------------|
| yadi-nkteb-lek | } | 'I'm going to write to you.' |
| or | | |
| yan-nekteb-lek | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ya-d-iʕi bekri or ya-yʕi bekri | } | 'He will come early.' |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ya-di-nʕufek men ba9d | 'I'll see you later.' |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|

(3) The passive prefix (equivalent to "in-" or "it-" in Eastern Arabic) is "tt-" or "t-".

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| l-weld ttedrab | 'The boy was hit.' |
|----------------|--------------------|

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| l-brawat tteketbu | 'The letters were written.' |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|

D. Pronoun Objects. When both the direct and indirect object pronouns are used with a verb, they are attached as suffixes to the verb (unlike the use of "iyaa-" in Levantine Arabic). The direct object comes first.

| <u>Levantine Arabic</u> | <u>Moroccan Arabic</u> | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a9teetu iyaaha | a9tithálu | 'I gave it (f.) to him.' |
| a9tiini iyyahum | a9tíhomli | 'Give them to me.' |

E. Negation of Verbs. Moroccan Arabic uses a prefix-suffix combination "ma- -ʕi" (or "ma- -ʕ") to negate verbs and the imperative (equivalent to the negative word "ma" in some varieties of Levantine Arabic).

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| ma-ʕafni-ʕ | 'He did not see me.' |
| ma-temʕi-ʕ | 'Don't go.' |
| ma-tqollu-ʕ | 'Don't tell him.' |
| ma-te9tíhomlu-ʕi | 'Don't give them to him.' |
| ma-ya-terʕa9-ʕi | 'She won't come back.' |
| ma-ya-di-nemʕi-ʕ | 'I won't go.' |

With certain words, the "-si" suffix may be omitted.

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| ma-xda walu | 'He did not take anything.' |
| ma-šaf Had | 'He did not see anyone.' |

F. A Special Suffix. The suffix "-emma" (or "-ma") is used mainly with question words, and means '-ever' in English. (Question words are discussed in Chapter IV.)

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| aš-emma | 'whatever' |
| fayn-emma | 'wherever' |
| layn-emma | 'to wherever' |
| mnin-emma | 'from wherever, whenever' |
| koll-ma | 'whenever' |
| weqt-emma | 'whenever, at whatever time' |
| kif-emma | 'however, by whatever means' |
| škun-emma | 'whoever' |
| šHal-emma | 'however much' |

G. Numbers.

(1) Moroccan Arabic uses the word "de" after a number, before the counted noun. The noun takes the definite article, and is plural after all numbers.

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| tlata del-ktub | 'three books' |
| tes9ud del-bnat | 'nine girls' |
| teltaš des-siyarat | 'thirteen automobiles' |

mya der-rẕal

'one hundred men'

mya den-nas

'one hundred people'

(2) The dual suffix is not used for most nouns. It is used only for nouns which usually come in pairs, such as parts of the body, and nouns which measure time, space, or quantity. Most nouns are counted with the word "ẕuẕ", 'two (literally, 'a pair')'.

ẕuẕ der-rẕal

'two men'

ẕuẕ del-ktub

'two books'

iddayn

'two hands'

ṣehrayn

'two months'

sa9tayn

'two hours'

III SENTENCES

A. Interrogative. The word "waš" is often used to mark the beginning of an interrogative sentence. (There is no equivalent in Eastern Arabic; it is equivalent to the use of "hal" (هل) in Classical Arabic.) If "waš" is not used, a question is signalled by a rise in intonation, as in Eastern Arabic.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| waš šofti Hmed | 'Did you see Ahmad?' |
| waš fhemtini | 'Have you understood me?' |
| waš zorti l-mṛṛeb men qbel | 'Have you visited Morocco before?' |

B. The Conditional. Moroccan Arabic uses the word "kun" (or "ka"), 'if', to introduce contrary-to-fact or impossible conditions (equivalent to the word "law" in Eastern Arabic). The word "ila" is used for possible or likely conditions (equivalent to the word "iza" in Eastern Arabic). The verb which follows is always in the perfect tense.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| kun kanet hna kun sweltha | 'If she were here, I would have asked her.' |
| kun 9reft kun qolthalek | 'If I knew, I would tell /it to/ you.' |
| ila šoftek ʔeḍḍa n9ṭik l-flus | 'If I see you tomorrow, I'll give you the money.' |
| ila šiti ʔadi-ntqabl m9ak hna | 'If you come, I'll meet you here.' |

C. Telling Time.

In Moroccan Arabic, the word "hadi" is used to express 'it is', plus the feminine numeral indicating the hour.

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| hadi l-weHda | 'It's one o'clock.' |
| hadi ʒ-ʒuʒ | 'It's two o'clock.' |
| hadi l-xemsa | 'It's five o'clock.' |

Time after the hour is expressed by "u", 'and', plus the period of time, and time before the hour is expressed by "yer", 'less', plus the period of time. Periods of time in an hour are expressed by the words "qsem", 'five minutes', "qesmayn", 'ten minutes', "rbe9", 'a quarter', "tulut", 'twenty minutes' (literally, 'a third'), and "neṣṣ", 'half'. A special combination form is used to express 'minus a quarter', "llareb". Examples:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| hadi 19eṣra u rbe9 | 'It's 10:15.' |
| hadi t-tlata llareb | 'It's a quarter to three (2:45).' |
| hadi r-reb9a u tulut | 'It's 4:20.' |
| hadi l-xemsa u qesmayn | 'It's 5:10.' |
| hadi l-xemsa yer qsem | 'It's five to five (4:55).' |
| hadi t-tmenya u xems qsam | 'It's 8:25.' |
| hadi t-tnaṣ u sba9 qsam | 'It's 12:35.' |
| wseṭt f le-Hdaṣ yer qesmayn | 'I arrived at ten to eleven (10:50).' |

tlebt mennu iṣi fes-seb9a u tulut 'I asked him to come at 7:20.'

To express 'about' or 'approximately', the words "m9a" or "ṣwayeh" are used:

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| m9a l-9eṣra | } | 'about ten o'clock' |
| ṣwayeh l-9eṣra | | |

The word "hadi" is also used to mean 'ago'.

mša hadi šehrayn

'He left two months ago.'

D. Past and Future Periods of Time.

(1) The expression for 'last' referring to a period of time is usually the phrase "lli fat" or "lli fatet". You will also hear "lli daz" and "lli gaz", the latter usually in the north.

s-sana lli fatet }
s-sana lli dazet }

'last year'

š-šher lli fat }
š-šher lli gaz }

'last month'

(2) To express 'next', referring to a period of time, the active participle of "ša" is usually used. The form used in the north is different from that used in Eastern Arabic, and is presented in parentheses.

s-sana lli šaya (mašya, mašša)

'next year'

š-šher lli šay (maši)

'next month'

Also used is the phrase "š-šher d-daxel", 'next month'. This phrase is usually not used for other periods of time.

E. Days of the Week. These are approximately the same as in Eastern Arabic, but are used with the word "nhar".

nhar l-Hedd

'Sunday'

nhar t-tnin

'Monday'

They may be used without any introductory word.

wšel fet-tlat

'He arrived Tuesday.'

IV
VOCABULARY

Following is a discussion of special groups of words and auxiliary words as they occur in sentences. (A general list of vocabulary items which differ from Eastern Arabic can be found in the Glossary.)

A. Question Words. Most question words differ in Moroccan Arabic.

"Direct" question words occur at the beginning of a sentence; "indirect" question words (relative conjunctions) occur inside a sentence and sometimes have a different form; only those which differ from the "direct" question form will be presented.

(1) 'What' šnu (šennu, aš, šenni)

(Direct Question)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| šnu qolti | 'What did you say?' |
| aš ʔad-takol | 'What are you going to eat?' |
| šnu ʔadi-te9mel | 'What are you going to do?' |
| faš žiti | 'How (literally, 'in what') did you come?' |

(Indirect Question)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ma-9reft-ši šnu byiti | 'I don't know what you want.' |
| ma-9reft-š šnu ne9mel | 'I don't know what to do.' |
| ma-9reft-š ma ne9mel | |
| ma-9endi ma ne9mel | 'I don't have anything to do.' |
| kayn ma ne9melu | 'Can I help you (do anything for you)?' |

(2) 'Who' škun

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| škun huwa had r-razel | 'Who is that man?' |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

The word for 'who' changes when used with prepositions.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| lemmen ktebti had l-brā | 'To whom did you write that letter?' |
| men 9end men ŷat had l-brā } mnenmen ŷat had l-brā | 'From whom did that letter come?' |
| m9a men mšiti l-bareH | 'With whom did you go yesterday?' |
| demmen had l-ktab | 'Whose book is this?' |

(3) 'Which' ŷmen (ašmen)

The word "ŷmen" is used for inanimate objects; for people, "škun" is used.

(Direct Question)

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ŷmen ktab criti | 'Which book did you read?' |
| f-ŷmen tiyara ŷiti | 'On which plane did you come?' |
| škun hiya xtek fi had l-bnat | 'Which girl is your sister?' |

(Indirect Question)

| | |
|--|--|
| ma-ne9ref-šī ŷmen meṭ9em Hsen } ma-ne9ref-š ina meṭ9em Hsen | 'I don't know which restaurant is best.' |
|--|--|

The word "ŷmen" may have alternative forms when used with some prepositions.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| l-ŷmen blad maši } lina blad maši | 'To which town are you going?' |
| men ŷmen blad nta } mnina blad nta | 'From which town are you?' |

(4) 'Where' fayn

This word differs from Eastern Arabic in its use in asking directions, in the phrase 'Where is...(located)?'

fayn ʔat s-sifara merikan 'Where is the American Embassy?'

fayn ʔa l-mekteb 'Where is the office?'

layn maʕi 'To where are you going?'

layn byiti temʕi 'Where do you want to go?'

mnin ʔiti 'Where did you come from?'

(5) 'Why' 9laʕ

9laʕ ma-ʔiti-ʕi l-bareH 'Why didn't you come yesterday?'

(6) 'How' kifaʕ

The word "kifaʕ" may alternate with "kif", but "kif" tends to show surprise, i.e., to mean 'How on earth...?', or 'How did you ever manage...?', and may be derogatory.

kifaʕ t9ellemti l-9arbiya 'How did you learn Arabic?'

kif huwa t9ellem l-engliza 'How did he ever manage to learn English?'

(7) 'When' fuqaʕ, weqtaʕ, fuyax, emta

The various words for "when" are presented in the order of frequency of use; "fuyax" is used mostly in the north.

fuqaʕ wʕelti 'When did you arrive?'

waqtaʕ yat-temʕi 'When will you leave?'

- (8) 'How much' ṢHal
'How many'

This word is equivalent to "kaam" and "ʔaddeeṢ" in Eastern Arabic. It is always followed by the word "de" and the definite article with counted nouns.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ṢHal del-ktub 9endek | 'How many books do you have?' |
| ṢHal del-flus 9endek | 'How much money do you have?' |
| ṢHal 9emrek | 'How old are you?' |
| ṢHal d-sukker byiti fel-qehwa | 'How much sugar do you want in your coffee?' |
| bṢHal | 'How much? (cost)' |

- (9) 'What time' Ṣmen sa9a, ṢHal fes-sa9a

The expression "ṢHal fes-sa9a" is restricted in usage, meaning only 'What time is it?'.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Ṣmen sa9a daba | } | 'What time is it now?' |
| ṢHal fes-sa9a daba | | |
| Ṣmen sa9a ʔad-dʒi | | 'What time are you coming?' |

B. Personal Pronouns. Personal pronouns are approximately the same as in Eastern Arabic, with the following exceptions.

(1) The second person singular, 'you', has several variations. Masculine singular is usually "nta" and feminine singular is "nti"; however, the form "ntina" can be used for both.

(2) The first person plural, 'we', is "Hna" or "Hnaya"; the latter form is used mostly in the north.

(3) The second person plural, 'you', is "ntuma".

C. Demonstrative Pronouns.

There are several sets of demonstrative pronouns in Moroccan Arabic, depending on the distance of the object discussed, and the position of the word in a sentence.

(1) 'This, these' (near)

The word "had" may be used, preceding a definite noun, and is invariable.

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| had l-ktab | 'this book' |
| had l-bnat | 'these girls' |

Following a noun, the pronoun is marked for gender and number.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| l-ktab hada | 'this book' |
| l-bent hadi | 'this girl' |
| l-ktub hadu | 'these books' |

(2) 'That, those' (far)

The full form precedes a noun, and is marked for gender and number.

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| hadak l-wld | 'that boy' |
| hadik l-bent | 'that girl' |
| haduk l-ktub | 'those books' |

The shortened form also precedes a noun, and usually occurs after prepositions. The singular form alternates between "dak" and "dik"; there is a plural form, "duk" (not used in the north).

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| f dak l-mektab | 'in that office' |
| f dak l-9emara | 'in that building' |
| f dik l-9emara | |
| f duk l-mkateb | 'in those offices' |

D. Prepositions. Some prepositions and preposition-pronoun combinations differ from those in Eastern Arabic.

- (1) 'beside' Hda, mlesseq fi

These prepositions are used with nouns or with pronoun suffixes.

(The phrase "f-ẓenb" is also used, which is closer to Eastern Arabic.)

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| kan waqef Hda l-malek | 'He was standing beside the king.' |
| huwa gales Hdaha | 'He is sitting beside her.' |
| glis Hdaya | 'Sit beside me.' |

The word "mlesseq" is used for inanimate objects, to describe location, and is used with preposition "fi" ("f" in rapid speech). It is marked for gender and number.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| l-Hanut lli mlessqa fel-bank | 'the shop next to the bank' |
| ḍ-ḍar mlesseq fes-suq | 'The house is beside the market.' |

- (2) 'across from' qbelt, qoddam, b'ẓert

The use of "b'ẓert" is more common in the north. "qoddam" may mean either 'across from' or 'beside'.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| l-9emara lli qbeltna | 'the building across from us' |
| l-9emara lli qbelt s-suq | } 'the building across from the market' |
| l-9emara lli qoddam s-suq | |

- (3) 'behind, after' muṛ(a)

This word may describe location, or introduce a time phrase.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| nṣufek ¹ mmuṛ l-ṣedda | 'I'll see you after lunch.' |
| l-Hanut ẓat muṛ l-qonsuliya | 'The shop is behind the consulate.' |

¹ "mmuṛ" is a contraction of "men muṛ", 'from after'.

(4) 'with' m9a, wiya

When pronouns are combined with "m9a", the stressed vowel is shifted.

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| m9áh | 'with him' |
| m9áha | 'with her' |
| m9áhom | 'with them' |
| m9ák | 'with you (m., f.)' |
| m9ákom | 'with you (pl.)' |
| m9áya | 'with me' |
| m9ána | 'with us' |

The word "wiya" is used to join two pronouns, although it is not used with the 'I' form.

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| ana wiyah | 'I and he', 'I am with him.' |
| ana wiyak | 'I and you', 'I am with you.' |

(5) 'to, for' li

This differs from Eastern Arabic when combined with pronouns, especially in the northern forms, presented in parentheses.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| lih (lilu) | 'to him' |
| liha (lila) | 'to her' |
| lihom (lilhom) | 'to them' |
| lik (lilek) | 'to you (m., f.)' |
| likom (lilkom) | 'to you (pl.)' |
| liya (lili) | 'to me' |
| lina (lilna) | 'to us' |

E. Auxiliary Words. These words occur in verb and noun phrases or sentences, and most have equivalent forms in Levantine or Eastern Arabic.

Some auxiliary words are mostly used with nouns.

(1) 'there is, are' kayn

This is equivalent to "fi" in Eastern Arabic. It may be negated with "ma- -ši", or the word "Hetta" may be inserted before the following noun. When the word "Hetta" is used, it denotes 'none at all'.

kayn tlamid fil-faṣl 'There are students in the class.'

waš kayn šī meṭṭem qrib men hna 'Is there a restaurant near here?'

ma-kayn-ši l-xobz l-yom 'There is no bread today.'

ma-kayn Hetta šī waHed fis-sifara 'There is nobody at all
in the embassy.'

ma-kayn Hetta šī qitar maši l-yom 'There is no train
leaving today.'

ma-kayn Hetta šī xber mennu 'There is no news from him at all.'

With some words, the suffix "-ši" is omitted.

ma-kayn Hedd 'There is nobody.'

ma-kayn walu 'There is nothing.'

(Also see page 8.)

(2) 'a, an' waHd

Moroccan Arabic uses an indefinite article, whereas Eastern Arabic does not. The word is "waHd" ("waH" in rapid speech), followed by a definite noun.

bṛit nekteb waHd l-bṛa 'I want to write a letter.'

bṛit nešri waH l-kilu 'I want to buy one kilo.'

(3) 'some' ši

This word may function as an indefinite article.

bʔit ši qlam 'I want a pencil.'

It is more commonly used to mean 'some', and precedes nouns, including counted nouns.

a9ṭini ši xobz 'Give me some bread.'

xeṣṣni neṣri ši Hʕa 'I have to buy something.'

ʕrit ši tlata del-ktub 'I bought three books.'

ʕoft ši waHed 'I saw someone.'

(4) 'much, many, very' bezzaf

This is equivalent to "ktiir" in Levantine Arabic. It is used in front of a noun, with the auxiliary word "de", to mean 'much' or 'many', and after an adjective to mean 'very'.

9endu bezzaf del-flus 'He has a lot of money.'

ʕoft bezzaf den-nas temma 'I saw many people there.'

huwa mrid bezzaf 'He is very sick.'

(5) 'only' ʔir

This word is used preceding a noun.

zid ʔir s-sukker fil-qehwa 'Add only sugar to the coffee.'

(cf. page 32, item 33).

(6) 'belonging to' dyal (de)

This is equivalent to "taba9" in Levantine Arabic, and denotes possession (possessive pronoun suffixes are also used, as they are in Eastern Arabic). The word "de" may be used with a following noun.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| fayn d-ḍar dyal Hmd } | 'Where is Ahmad's house?' |
| fayn d-ḍar de Hmd } | |

šni hiya d-drisa dyalek 'What is your address?'

šit fis-siyara dyali 'I came in my car.'

(7) 'owner' mul

This is equivalent to "šaaHib" in Eastern Arabic, and is used in construct with a noun. It is marked for gender and plural. This word may also be used idiomatically to indicate 'someone in charge'.

huwa mul l-Hanut l-kbira 'He is the owner of the big shop.'

škun huwa mul s-sanduq 'Who is the cashier?'

hiya mulat š-š'i 'She is in charge of affairs (the boss).'

mwalin had l-met9em fransis 'The owners of this restaurant are French.'

(8) 'even, also' Hetta

This word has many meanings, depending on context. Preceding a noun or pronoun, it means 'even' or 'also'.

Hetta huwa mša m9ahom 'Even he went with them.'

'He also went with them.'

Hetta t-tilifon meš9ol 'Even the telephone is busy.'

'The telephone is also busy.'

Hetta ana la bas 'I'm fine, too.'

mšat l-mekteb Hetta hiya 'She went to the office, too.'

(cf. its use with verbs, p.26)

(9) 'without' bla

The word "bla" is used when followed by a noun. If followed by a pronoun, the preposition "bi-" must be used.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ʔa bla flus | 'He came without money.' |
| mʕa bla biya | 'He went without me.' |
| xessek temʕi bla bihom | 'You must go without them.' |

A special combination form occurs with the pronoun object meaning 'it' or 'anything'. If the object refers to 'him', this is not used.

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| ʔa blaʕ | 'He came without it.' |
| | 'He came without anything.' |
| ʔa bla bih | 'He came without him.' |

(10) 'like, similar to' bHal, fHal

These are similar to "mitil" in Levantine Arabic, and are often used twice in a sentence.

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| huwa bHalu bHal l-Hmar | } | 'He's like a donkey (stupid).' |
| huwa fHalu fHal l-Hmar | | |
| ka-ytkellem bHal ʕi-faylasuf | | 'He talks like a philosopher.' |

When repeated twice, this is an idiomatic expression.

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| bHal bHal | } | 'They're just alike.' | 'It's the same thing.' |
| fHal fHal | | | |

The following auxiliary words are used in verb phrases.

(11) 'to want to' bya

This is equivalent to "bidd-" in Levantine Arabic, but is a conjugated verb in Moroccan Arabic. It always occurs in the perfect tense, and sometimes the translation must depend on context. The word "bya" may

have idiomatic translations when negated or when it refers to the past tense.

bʔit ntkellem m9ak

'I want to talk to you.'

ma-bʔina-š nšufuh

'We don't want to see him.'

'We didn't want to see him.'

'We refused to see him.'

9laš bʔitina

'Why did you want me?'

'Why do you want me?'

bʔaw i9etluh

'They wanted to kill him.'

'They were about to kill him.'

'They decided to kill him.'

(12) 'to have to, must, need'

xəšš-, 9end- ma

The use of "xəšš-" is equivalent to "laazim" in Eastern Arabic. It is used with pronoun suffixes to denote necessity. If the action is habitual, "ka-" may be prefixed.

xəššni nšuf l-mudir

'I must see the director.'

xəššek temšī daba

'You must go now.'

kan xəššhom yemšiw bekri

'They had to leave early.'

ka-yxəšsha temšī les-skwila

'She has to go to school

koll nhar

every day.'

šHal del-ktub xəššek

'How many books do you need?'

The phrase "9end-ma" is used with pronouns, and denotes necessity or 'supposed to'.

9endi ma nemšī nzuru l-yom

'I should go visit him today.'

'I'm supposed to go visit
him today.'

9endu ma ikun fed-ḍar daba 'He ought to be at home now.'

'He must be at home now.'

(13) 'just, then' 9ad

This word has two meanings, depending on context. It is used preceding a verb.

9ad wselt l-bareH 'I just arrived yesterday.'

šreb l-qehwa 9ad mša 'He drank the coffee and then left.'

(14) 'almost, about to' 9layn

This word is used preceding verbs.

huwa 9layn yexrož 'He is about to leave.'

ana 9layn nkemmel š-šoyl dyali 'I am about to finish my work.'
'I've almost finished my work.'

(15) 'again' 9awed

This is equivalent to the word "taani" in Eastern Arabic. It is used preceding a verb. If "9awed" is in the perfect tense, the following verb will be in the perfect tense. If it occurs in any other tense, the following verb will be imperfect.

9awed qal-lu 'He told him again.'

9awdet dexlet 'She went in again.'

ma-t9awed-š tkellem m9ah 'Don't talk to him again.'

(16) 'to continue' bqa

This word is used with the progressive verb or the active participle. When negated, it means 'no longer', or 'not any more'.

bqat ka-tkellem 'She continued to talk.'

'She kept on talking.'

bqaw mašyin 'They kept on walking.'

ma-bqa-š ka-yqarri l-9arbiya 'He no longer teaches Arabic.'

(17) 'when, until, so that' Hetta

'none'

This word, when preceding a verb or predicate, has several translations.

tsennit Hetta wšel 'I waited until he arrived.'

mšit Hetta nešri šī Hža 'I went in order to buy something.'

Hetta šoftu kan mešyol 'When I saw him, he was busy.'

Hetta šreb l-qehwa 9ad mša 'When (after) he had drunk the
coffee, he left.'

The word "Hetta" following a verb negated with "ma-" means 'none at all'.

(cf. its use with "kayn", p. 20).

ma-b'it Hetta Hža xra 'I don't want anything else (at
all).'

ma-šoft Hetta waHed }
ma-šoft Hetta Hedd } 'I didn't see anyone else (at
all).'

These auxiliary words introduce a clause or predicate.

(18) 'in order to' baš

This is equivalent to "Hatta" or "mišaan" in Levantine Arabic, and functions as a phrase connector to denote purpose.

mšit leḡ-ḡar baš nšufu 'I went to the house to see him.'

yalla baš nwešlu bekri 'Let's go so we can arrive
early.'

(19) 'because' 9la qibal, 9la xaṭer, 9la enna, 9la Hqaš, Hit

All these words may be used interchangeably. The second two are usually not used at the beginning of a sentence.

9la qibal huwa mešṭol ma-ṣa-š 'Because he's busy, he
didn't come.'

ma-ṣa-š 9la xaṭer huwa mešṭol 'He didn't come because
he's busy.'

ma-dṣarreb-ši 9la enna dak š-ši mustaḥil 'Don't try because
that's impossible.'

Hit s-seht t-tlamid ma-ṣaw-ši l-yom 'Because of the heat,
the students didn't
come today.'

(20) 'as soon as', 'by the time', mnin, Heyn
'when' (non-interrogative)

These words have various translations, depending on context.

(The word "mnin" may also have its literal Arabic meaning, 'from where'.)

mnin dxelna kan mša 'By the time we entered, he had
left.'

mnin wšelna šrebna l-qehwa }
Heyn wšelna šrebna l-qehwa } 'As soon as we arrived, we
drank coffee.'

mnin dṣi ṣḍa nṣufek 'When you come tomorrow, I'll
see you.'

mnin ntkellem m9ah nṣaweb 9lik 'Whenever I talk to him,
I'll give you the answer.'

- (21) 'no sooner than', 'as soon as' γir (nšelleh)

This word may also mean 'as soon as', but is stronger, and generally denotes a more immediately following time. The word 'nšelleh' is used in the north, and with verbs in the perfect tense only.

γir newšlu nšerbu šī Hža 'As soon as we arrive, we'll
drink something.'

γir wšelna l-matar t-tiyara žat }
nšelleh wšelna l-matar t-tiyara } 'No sooner had we arrived
at the airport than the
plane came.'

γir ntkellem m9ah nžaweb 9lek 'The very moment I talk to
him, I'll give you the
answer.'

- (22) 'while, meanwhile' 9la bayd men

šerbu l-qehwa 9la bayd men ywžed l-9ša 'They drank coffee
while dinner was
being prepared.'

- (23) 'since' melli, Hit

These words can mean 'since' in both temporal and causal relations, although "melli" tends to be more temporal, and "Hit" is more causal.

melli mšiti ma-ktebti l-bra 'Since you left, you haven't
written a letter.'

ma-šftu-š melli tzuwwež 'I haven't seen him since he got
married.'

ma-šftu-š Hit tzuwweš 'I haven't seen him, because he
got married.'

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Hit huma Yalyin bezzaf Yadi-nešri | } | |
| Yir waHed | | |
| melli huma Yalyin bezzaf Yadi-nešri | | 'Since they're so |
| Yir waHed | | expensive, I'll buy only one.' |

- (24) 'although, even if' waxxa
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| bʔit nemšī waxxa newšēl m9eṭṭel | 'I want to go even if I arrive late.' |
| mšit waxxa wšēlt m9eṭṭel | 'I went although I arrived late.' |
| waxxa tHawel ma-ʔat-tenša-šī | 'Even if you try, you won't succeed.' |

It should be noted that "waxxa", when used alone, means 'all right, OK'.

- (25) 'still, not yet' baqi, mazal

Both "baqi" and "mazal" are used to mean 'not yet' when placed in front of verbs, or used alone in response to a question.

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| baqi ma-ša | } | 'He hasn't come yet.' |
| mazal ma-ša | | |
| baqi | } | 'Not yet.' |
| mazal | | |

When used with nouns, adjectives, participles, or affirmative verbs, these words are marked for gender and number, and mean 'still'.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| hiya baqya (baqqa) ka-texdem | 'She is still working.' |
| huma baqyin (baqqin) fi tunes | 'They are still in Tunis.' |

Hmed mazal mrid

'Ahmad is still sick.'

xiti mazala bent

'My sister is still unmarried.'

huma mazalin ka-ydersu

'They are still studying.'

(26) 'but' lakin, bel Haq

These words both mean 'but', although "bel Haq" is stronger, and may mean 'on the contrary', or 'but in fact'.

byit nemši lakin ma-neqder-ši

'I want to go but I can't.'

byit nemši bel Haq ma-qdert-ši

'I wanted to go, but I couldn't.'

sHebli huwa saHbi bel Haq žbertu

'I thought he was my friend

yeddar

but on the contrary I found him to be a traitor.'

huwa 9endi 9ziz bel Haq ma-ka-nteq-ši

bih

huwa 9endi 9ziz lakin ma-ka-nteq-ši

bih

'I like him but I don't trust him.'

(27) 'to feel like' fi- ma

This is used with pronouns, and is mostly used in the negative.

fik ma tšreb

'Do you feel like drinking something?'

ma fiya ma nakol

'I don't feel like eating.'

Other words:

(28) -self raš (nafs)

The reflexive is usually expressed with the word "raš".

Only in the phrase with "b" is the word "nefs" used as it is in Eastern Arabic.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| šoft raši | 'I saw myself' |
| šritihom l-rašek | 'Did you buy them for yourself?' |
| mšit b-nefsi | 'I went by myself.' |

(29) 'Isn't that so?' yak, b-šah

These are equivalent to "miš heek" in Levantine Arabic.

They are used as a "tag question" at the end of statements.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| nta amrikani yak | } 'You're American, aren't you?' |
| nta amrikani b-šah | |

"Yak" at the beginning of a statement functions as an emphatic interrogative particle, and it marks a question in which there is some doubt, i.e., 'is it true that...?', as if the questioner is double-checking information.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| yak smek Hmed | 'Your name <u>is</u> Ahmed, isn't it?' |
| yak la bas | 'Are you really OK?' |

(30) 'right (here, there)', 'precisely' nnit

This word is mostly used with words of place or location.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hottu hna nnit | 'Put it right here.' |
| temma nnit fi had l-9emara | 'right there in that building' |
| daba nnit | 'right now' |

(31) 'here is...', 'there is...' ha-, ra-

These prefixes are used with pronouns. They indicate location, and are used much like "voici" and "voilà" in French.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| hahiya l-meHeṭṭa | 'Here is the station.' |
| haHna fiṣ-ṣuq nnit | 'We are exactly in the /middle of/ the market.' |

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| hahuma l-flus | 'Here is the money.' |
| hak | 'Here you are.' (handing something to someone) |
| rahuma l-flus | 'The money is over there.' |
| rahiya l-meHetṭa | 'The station is over there.' |
- (32) 'against one's will' bezzez (men), b-ṣiyf (9ala)
'in spite of'

These words require a preposition, unless they end a sentence.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| ṣa bezzez mennu | } | 'He came against his will.' |
| ṣa b-ṣiyf 9leh | | |
| ṣrebha bezzez | | 'He had to drink it <u>against</u> his will.' |
| bṣani ntkellem m9aha bezzez | | 'He tried to force me to talk to her.' |
| mṣit bezzez | } | 'I went unwillingly.' |
| mṣit b-ṣiyf | | |
- (33) 'only' 'that's all' ukan, usalam, uṣafi
- These words are used at the end of a sentence.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| tkellemt Ṣir m9a 9abdallah uṣafi | 'I talked only to Abdallah and that's all.' |
| ṣi mya del-mitru ukan | 'about one hundred meters only' |
| wda9tu fel-matar usalam | 'I just said goodbye to him at the airport and that was it.' |

V
SOCIAL SITUATIONS

Some social situations call for different standardized phrases or expressions. The main ones are described here, with statements and responses.

(1) Greetings

ahlan ... ahlan

'Hello' ... 'Hello'

la bas
la bas 9alek } ... la bas, lHemdollaḥ

'Hello, how are you?' ... 'Fine.'

Ṣxbarek ... la bas, lHemdollaḥ

'How are you?' ... 'Fine'

(2) Farewell

besslama ... besslama

llaḥ ihennik ... llaḥ ihennik

'Goodby' ... 'Goodby'

(3) Please (asking a favor)

men fdlek } ... { b-koll faraḥ
llaḥ yxellik } ... { 9la raṣi w 9eni
llaḥ yḥazik } ...

'Please' ... 'I'd be glad to.'

(4) Thanks

baraka llaḥu fik ... bla ḥmil

'Thank you' ... 'You're welcome'

(5) Meetings

metʕerrfin ... metʕerrfin

'Pleased to meet you.' ... 'My pleasure.'

(6) Apology

smeHli ... { ma kayn bas
... { ma wqa9 bas

'Excuse me.' ... 'It's OK.'

(7) Repetition

na9am

ʕnu

smeHli

'Pardon, I didn't understand.'

(8) Addressing a person

a sidi

'Sir...'

a lalla

'Madam...'

(9) Future

9allah

'I hope so' 'Maybe'

inʕallah

'If God wills'

(10) Back from a trip

9ela slamtek
lHemdu llah 9ela s-slama } llah ysellemek

'Thank God for your safety.' ... 'May God grant you safety.'

(11) Illness

llah yšuf min Halek ... lehla ywrik bas

'May God look upon your health.' ... 'May God not show
you evil.'

(12) Death

llah yi9adđem l-ažar ... lehla ywarrikom šarr

'May God greaten the good deeds.' ... 'May God not show
you evil.'

llah ybđdel l-mHebba baḡar ... llah yewsa9 qabru

'May God exchange love for patience.' ... 'May God broaden
his tomb.'

VI
APPENDIX

A. Verb Tables. Some kinds of verb conjugations have significant pattern differences in Moroccan Arabic:

1. Sound Verb 'to write'

Levantine Arabic

Moroccan Arabic

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| katab | yuktub | kteb | yekteb |
| katbat | tuktub | ketbet | tekteb |
| katabu | yuktubu | ketbu | yketbu |
| katabt | tuktub | ktebti | tekteb |
| katabti | tuktubi | ktebti | tektebi |
| kababtu | tuktubu | ktebtiw | tketbu |
| katabt | aktub | ktebt | nekteb |
| katabna | nuktub | ktebna | nketbu |

2. Medially Weak Verb 'to be'

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| kaan | ykuun | kan | ikun |
| kaanat | tkuun | kanet | tkun |
| kaanu | ykuunu | kanu | ikunu |
| kunt | tkuun | konti | tkun |
| kunti | tkuuni | konti | tkuni |
| kuntu | tkuunu | kontiw | tkunu |
| kunt | akuun | kont | nkun |
| kunna | nkuun | konna | nkunu |

3. Finally Weak Verb 'to go'

| | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| miši | yimši | mša | yemši |
| mišyit | timši | mšat | temši |
| mišyu | timšu | mšaw | yemšiw |
| mišeet | timši | mšiti | temši |
| mišeeti | timši | mšiti | temši |
| mišeetu | timšu | mšitu | temšiw |
| mišeet | amši | mšit | nemši |
| mišeena | nimši | mšina | nemšiw |

B. False Cognates. Following is a list of words which are misleading for a speaker of Eastern Arabic who is depending on cognate vocabulary to guess word meanings. Some are identical in form; others are close enough to cause misunderstanding. Some words share the same basic meaning in both dialects, but one dialect has added additional meanings.

| <u>Levantine Arabic</u> | <u>Moroccan Arabic</u> |
|-------------------------|--|
| ʔabiiH 'ugly, obscene' | qbiH 'bad, unpleasant, naughty' (bš19 'ugly') |
| aywa 'yes' | iwa 'well, so' (sentence introducer) (iyeh 'yes') |
| ba19e 'a swallow' | b19a 'a lot of' |
| ba9d 'after' | be9da 'beforehand, first, already' (men ba9d 'after') |
| beet 'house' | bit, byut 'room' (dar, dyur 'house') |
| buHeere 'lake' | bHira 'vegetable garden' (daya 'lake') |

FROM EASTERN TO WESTERN ARABIC

Levantine Arabic

dafa9 'to pay, push'

fadda 'to empty'

faakha 'fruit'

Haaġe 'necessity'

Harii'a 'fire'

Henne 'henna'

Hilw 'sweet, pretty, nice'

Hizaam 'belt'

juhd 'effort'

koHl (black eye makeup)

kursi 'chair'

lisaans (French education degree)

mandiil 'handkerchief'

ma9zuum 'invited'

mawjuud 'present, existing'

maxzan 'storehouse'

mektuub 'letter'

Moroccan Arabic

dfe9 'to push'
(xlles 'to pay')

fadda 'to finish'
(xwa, yexwi 'to empty')

fakya 'dried fruit'
(xrif 'fruit')

Haġa 'thing'
(Yaġad 'necessity')

Hriq 'pain'
(9afya 'fire')

Henna 'grandmother'

Hlu 'sweet'
(zwin 'pretty')
(drif 'nice')

Hizam 'ladies' belt'
(semta 'belt')

Žehd 'amount'
(mažhudat 'effort')

kHel 'black'
(kHol 'eye makeup')

korsi 'stool'
(šiliya 'chair')

lisans 'gasoline'
(also: French education degree)

mendil 'napkin, tablecloth'
(sibniya 'handkerchief')

me9dum 'very sick'
(ma9rud 'invited')

mužud 'ready'

mxzen 'government (of Morocco)'
(xzin 'storehouse')

mktub 'destiny'
(bra 'letter')

FROM EASTERN TO WESTERN ARABIC

Levantine Arabic

muluxiyye (green leafy vegetable)

mut9allime 'educated (f.)'

mu9tabar 'considered, respected'

raaH 'he went'

rabii9 'spring' (season)

rafaḍ 'to expel'

rafii9 'thin'

riif 'countryside, rural area'

sudaa9 'headache'

šadd 'to pull'

šita 'winter, rain'

taajir 'merchant'

taʔiil 'heavy'

tasriiH 'authorization'

ʔuwe 'force, strength'

wadi 'valley, riverbed'

wajad 'to find'

xallaṣ 'to finish, save'

xariif 'autumn'

Moroccan Arabic

mloxiyya 'okra'

met9allma 'maid'
(mṭaqfa 'educated (f.)')

mo9taber 'excellent, beautiful'
(moHtaram 'respected')

rah 'there is...'
(mša 'he went')

rbi9 'spring, grass'

rfeḍ 'to carry'

rfi9 'excellent, valuable'
(rqiḡ, d9if 'thin')

rif 'Rif mountains area'
(badiya, blad, 9ṛubiya
'countryside')

sda9 'noise'

šedd 'to close'
(šbed 'to pull')

šita 'brush'
(šta 'winter, rain')

tažer 'merchant'
'rich' (adj.)

tqil 'heavy, slow'

tesriH 'passport, palm mat'
(ruṣṣa 'authorization')

qowwa 'force'
qowwet- 'a lot of'

wad, widan 'river'

wažed 'ready'
(wžed 'to find')

xlles 'to pay'
(kemmel 'to finish')

xrif 'autumn, fruit'

Levantine Arabic

9aafye 'strength'

9aziza 'beloved (f.)'

Moroccan Arabic

9afya 'fire, hell'
(qowwa 'strength')

9ziza 'grandmother'

C. Variable Words in Dialects. The Arabic dialects have tended to develop more different vocabulary words in some areas than in others. Some words are different in nearly every dialect. With experience, you can predict the words which are more likely to have new forms, and you will save time and effort by identifying them early. For your guidance, we are listing some of the words which vary the most widely.

Nouns

(foods)
(eating utensils)
(furniture)
(clothing)
(money)
(rooms)

ashtray
baggage
barber
basket
blanket
bottle
bridge
brush
car
cigarette
closet
corner
eyeglasses
fan
farm
garden
gun
letter
matches
office
tire
towel
umbrella
wages
wallet

Adjectives

bad
early
good
near
ready
sick
tired
well (in health)

Verbs

ask
become
carry
close
do
fight
fill
find
finish
give
hurry
look at
open
shave
sleep
speak
take
think
want
work

Time Words

today
yesterday
tomorrow
last ____
next ____

(Prepositions)

(Demonstrative Pronouns)

(Question Words)

Other Words

(negative words)
future tense marker
progressive tense marker
(personal titles)
afterwards
also
although
always
because
here
if (two kinds)
in order to
much
nothing
now
of (belonging to)
OK
quickly

Other Words (cont'd)

right away
 same
 similar to
 slowly
 still, yet
 straight ahead
 then
 there
 there is, there is not
 very
 yes

D. Glossary. The glossary includes some basic words (not discussed above) which are so different from Eastern Arabic that their meaning may not be easily guessed. Before the general glossary, a few "sets" of words will be listed.

(1) Family Terms

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| omm | 'mother' | bba | 'father' |
| yummah (mmu) | 'his mother' | bbah | 'his father' |
| yummaha (mma) | 'her mother' | bbaha | 'her father' |
| yumhom (mmhom) | 'their mother' | bbahom | 'their father' |
| ymmek (mmek) | 'your mother' | bbak | 'your father' |
| yumkom (mmkom) | 'your mother' | bbakom | 'your father' |
| yuma (mmi) | 'my mother' | bba | 'my father' |
| yummana (mma) | 'our mother' | bbana | 'our father' |
| xet | 'sister' | ax | 'brother' |
| xtu | 'his sister' | xuh (xah) | 'his brother' |
| xta | 'her sister' | xuha (xaha) | 'her brother' |
| xtom | 'their sister' | xuhom (xahom) | 'their brother' |

Family Terms

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| xtek | 'your sister' | xuk (xak) | 'your brother' |
| xetkom | 'your sister' | xukom (xakom) | 'your brother' |
| xti | 'my sister' | xay (xuya) | 'my brother' |
| xetna | 'our sister' | xuna (xana) | 'our brother' |

xut 'brothers and sisters, siblings'

xutu 'his brothers and sisters'

xuta 'her brothers and sisters'

xuti 'my brothers and sisters' (etc.)

dker 'male'

lenta 'female'

(2) Clothing

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| keswa, ksawi | 'suit' |
| kebbut, kbabet | 'coat, jacket' |
| serwal, srawel | 'trousers' |
| qameẓẓa (sumiz), qwameẓ | 'shirt' |
| sebbat | 'pair of shoes' |
| teqšira, tqašer | 'socks' |
| šemta, smati | 'belt' |
| šemrir, šmarer | 'hat' |

(3) Rooms in a House

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| bit dl-glas | 'living room' |
| bit dl-mekla | 'dining room' |
| bit n-n9as | 'bedroom' |
| keššina (kuzina) | 'kitchen' |
| Hemmam | 'bathroom' |
| menzeh | 'terrace' |

General Glossary

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| atat | furniture |
| atay | tea |
| basel -a -iin | annoying, inconvenient |
| bellati | slowly; imperative: wait! |
| bla qyas | very, extremely |
| bzayed | more, much |
| b-žuž | both |
| daba | now |
| daz, iduz (gaz, iguz) | to stop by |
| dȳiya | soon, quickly |
| dima | always |
| drari | children |
| ḡew | light, electricity |
| felHin | immediately |
| ferfar | fan |
| fqi | teacher |

General Glossary

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| fraš | bed |
| fuqi | upstairs |
| garru -wat | cigarette |
| gud | straight ahead |
| hakda (hakdak) | like this |
| hbet, yhbet | to go down, descend |
| herres | to break |
| Hall, iHell | to open |
| Hanut, Hwanet | shop |
| Hežžam | barber |
| Hda, yeHdi | to take care of, babysit |
| Hmeq | crazy |
| Hwayež | clothes |
| kra | rent |
| kra, ikri | to rent |
| letšin | orange |
| magana | clock, watch, meter |
| makla | food |
| mariyu -wat | closet |
| mezyan -a -iin | good |
| mʔettet | furnished |
| ndader | eyeglasses |
| neqra | silver |
| nqi | clean |
| nuwwara -at | flower |

General Glossary

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| qa9 | end, bottom |
| qarra, yqarri | to teach |
| qelleb (9la) | to look for |
| qer9a, qura9 | bottle |
| qʕer, qʕura | drawer |
| rduma, rdayem | bottle |
| sala, isali | to finish |
| sarut, swaret | key |
| sefli | downstairs, first floor |
| seqsa, yseqsi | to ask |
| sewwel | to ask |
| sir | imperative: go away! |
| skwila | elementary school |
| sifet, isifet | to send |
| suwweb | to repair |
| ʕerʕem, ʕraʕem | window |
| ʕkayn | what's the matter? |
| temma | there |
| teswira, tsawer | picture |
| tomma | then |
| tqada, itqada | to end, be finished |
| tʕebber | to grab, take |
| taH, itiH | to fall |
| waHʕwiya | a little while |
| walu | nothing |

General Glossary

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| wqida -at | match |
| zerbiya, zrabī | rug, carpet |
| zreb, yzreb | to hurry |
| ẓber, yẓber | to find |
| ẓenwi, ẓnawa | knife |
| ẓwayeh | neighborhood |
| ḡammer | to fill |
| ḡewd | horse |
| ḡezri, ḡzara | bachelor |

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